

Abstract

Described is a system and method for replicating each of a set of resources to a subject computer in a replica set prior to making use of a resource in the set of resources. The set of resources includes resources that are dependent upon each other for a proper functioning of the group. A manifest file that identifies each resource in a group of interrelated resources is used. The manifest file is generated at one computer in the replica set (typically the computer at which a modification to one of the interrelated resources occurred). When the modification occurs to one of the set of resources, the manifest file is transmitted (e.g., itself replicated) to each computer in the replica set.

The manifest file includes an indicator that identifies the manifest file as a special file. When received at another computer in the replica set, a service evaluates the manifest file to identify whether the appropriate versions of the identified resources exist at the receiving computer. If not, the service at that computer awaits the receipt of each resource. The wait period may include delaying the execution of an application associated with (or even included within) the manifest file from launching. Alternatively, the FRS could simply disallow access to one or more resources identified in the manifest file until all have arrived. When all have arrived, the FRS releases control of the identified resources, which may then operate or be accessed in the ordinary manner.

